

CAPITOL & DISTRICT NEWS



Assemblymember
Kevin De León



Assemblymember Kevin de León at Audubon Center in Debs Park at a wildlife workshop for kids.

It's been an exciting past several months both in the District and at the State Capitol. I'm proud to represent Angelino Heights, Atwater Village, Chinatown, Cypress Park, City Terrace, Echo Park, El Sereno, Elysian Valley, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Historic Filipino Town, Hollywood, Lincoln Heights, Little Armenia, Mt. Washington, Ramona Gardens, Silverlake, Temple - Beverly, & Thai Town. I love this diverse district and want to provide everyone a quick update on the progress of the assembly office. Please forward this newsletter to interested friends and please utilize me, my staff and our website as a useful resource for you and your family. - Kevin

CAPITOL NEWS

Over \$3 Million Secured for Historical Landmarks in Los Angeles



With the strong support of Assistant Majority Leader de León, three significant landmarks in Los Angeles—the Hollyhock House, the Echo Park Boathouse and the Autry National Center Southwest Museum—received over three and half million dollars in funding for project restoration from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) Fund. The Hollyhock House, designed in the 1920's by the internationally acclaimed architect Frank Lloyd Wright and a newly declared National Historical Landmark, is the crowning jewel of the Barnsdall Art Park in East Hollywood. With a \$1.93 million dollar grant from the CCHE, the grant recipient, Project

Restore, will complete the restoration of the Hollyhock House and transform it into a museum and quality gallery and design space. Once fully restored and functioning, the facility will be a major architectural destination for all Californians to enjoy. The Echo Park Boathouse received a \$1.45 million dollar grant for its Rehabilitation Phase II project. Great efforts were made by the community, Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, to re-light and restore the boathouse to its full beauty of the 1930s. The Autry National Center's access project at the Southwest Museum is part of the ongoing renovation and preservation of the Mt. Washington site was awarded a little over \$160,000. All projects are underway and will be open for viewing soon.

Legislation



On July 27th, Governor Schwarzenegger Passed Kevin's first bill AB 367, AB 367 will establish a task force to evaluate the imposition of criminal court ordered debts and distribution of revenue from the collection of those debts. It will also create a task force on delinquent court-ordered files and penalties. AB 367 has also reduced the minimum fine required by the Franchise Tax Board Court-Ordered Debt Collection Program from \$250 to \$100. For a full list of current legislation please go to www.leginfo.ca.gov .



Budget Update

Senate Republicans held the budget more than seven weeks past the constitutional budget deadline. As a result, California is the last state in the nation to pass a budget this year. With many great challenges facing us, including a health care crisis, under-funded public schools, and climate change, Republicans attempted to weaken environmental oversight and fight staunch ideological positions by holding the budget hostage. They only succeeded in putting many vital state services in jeopardy. The budget is certainly not perfect, but, in the spirit of compromise and a responsible effort to enact one, a budget was approved.



Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Meet

On July 17, 2007, the Assembly Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse held an informational hearing on the subject: "Understanding the Science of Addiction". Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de Leon and the other members of the select committee received a briefing from Mark Stanford, PhD, Medical and Clinical Services Manager for the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System. Mr. Stanford provided a comprehensive presentation on why certain drugs have abuse potential, and why addiction is a chronic condition that requires long-term treatment for successful recovery.



Committee on Homeland Security

On August 21, 2007, the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security held an informational hearing with the topic: "Federal Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Response Grant Programs: How Will Funds Be Distributed and Used by the State and Local Governments". Panelists included Matthew Bettenhausen, Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS), Frank McCarton, the Chief Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), and Arif Alikhan, Deputy Mayor, Homeland Security and Public Safety, Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Members of the Committee received an overview of the respective roles of state and local governments in the distribution and coordination of federal grant funding, and were provided with an update on the 2007 Statewide Integrated Public Safety Communications Strategic Plan.

DISTRICT NEWS

Assemblymember Kevin de León Honors Local Parent Volunteers



On Saturday, June 16th, the Annual Parent Volunteer award ceremony and luncheon recognized 25 outstanding parent volunteers from El Sereno, Highland Park, and Lincoln Heights for their dedication and support to improve our community and our children's educational future. The wonderful event was held at The Audubon Center in Debs Park. If you would like more information about the Audubon Center, please visit http://www.audubon-ca.org/debs_park.htm.



El Sereno and Echo Park Women's Self Defense Workshop

Assemblyman Kevin de Leon was a proud sponsor of two FREE women's self defense workshops held in the month of May. The workshops were held throughout the district and had about 60 women participating and learning new self defense techniques; and the basic rights of safety for women and their families.



Citizenship Workshop

Throughout the month of July, in cooperation with Speaker Fabian Nuñez, NALEO, and other organizations and volunteers an effort to assist hundreds of eligible legal permanent residents apply for U.S. citizenship before the 69% fee increased on July 30, 2007 was undertaken. Since January 2007, filings for citizenship applications nationally have increased more than 65 percent for the first part of the year as compared to the same time period last year, with Los Angeles County leading the way for filing with an increase of 110% from previous years.

Homeowner/Renters' Assistance Workshops



During the months of August and September, staff offered a series of FREE homeowner/renter assistance workshops throughout the district at local Senior Citizen Centers. Individuals may claim a tax refund if they are 62 years of age or older, disabled, and US citizens or permanent residents and had an annual income less than \$42,770 in 2006. October 15, 2007 is this years deadline. Copies of the Tax Refund Application are available at the Franchise Tax Board 800-338-0505 <http://www.ftb.ca.gov>

Healthy City Workshop



After hosting a Healthy City Project presentation in Sacramento for a group of Los Angeles Assembly Delegates, Assemblymember Kevin de Leon held a second presentation on August 20th at the California Endowment center for Assembly staff members. The Healthy City program is a remarkable tool utilized in a variety of ways for casework, constituency outreach, and in support of policy work. To access the database of social services for Los Angeles County and the demographic mapping capabilities of the project please go to www.healthycity.org.

City Terrace Job and Health Fair

With the coordination of local, state and federal officials, Plaza Community Services inaugurated the TEEN CENTER in City Terrace. The facility offers children, teenagers, and families on a daily basis anger management, family counseling, and mental health services. The fair involved over 60 local and regional private and government employers and health service providers.



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